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The Parthenon, April 12, 2013

John Gibb
Parthenon@marshall.edu

Tyler Kes
Parthenon@marshall.edu

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Former Herd pitcher Dan Straily finding success in the big leagues > more on Sports

THE PARTHENON

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2013 | VOL. 116 NO. 118 | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER | marshallparthenon.com

BUDGET CUTS

Faculty, staff and students attempt to understand scope of budget measures

By TAYLOR STUCK
THE PARTHENON

Tuesday, Marshall University President Stephen Kopp announced two budget conservation measures in an e-mail to faculty and staff, and the university is now trying to comprehend the scope of the measures.

The two measures include a sweep of all revenue accounts, leaving only up to \$5,000, and a hiring freeze of non-critical employees.

The deans of every college met Thursday to discuss the sweeping of the funds from revenue accounts.

Gayle Ormiston, provost, during the meeting said there is a need for the budget office to get a sense of what the revenues were being used for as part of a budgetary process that is going to take place.

"It is my understanding the sweeping of these revenue accounts

is to understand better what you need in order to run your colleges and what we need at the university level to run it, in terms of support and instructional activities," Ormiston said. "Mary Ellen Heuton and the budget office is not clear on what the core costs are to run the university. In a sense, if we know what we need in our operating budget then we are able to still fund the operating budget, but do it a little bit differently, and in doing that, centralize fees."

Many of the deans expressed their frustration at not being included in the decision to sweep the accounts.

"If we are supposed to have some judiciary responsibility for our college, it would have been nice to be involved in this discussion," David Pittenger, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said during the meeting. "We

aren't just hoarding money to hoard money."

"Supposedly, I am entrusted with a job, and now I feel a complete lack of trust and complete inability to manage finances," Charles Sumerville, dean of the College of Science, said during the meeting.

Deanna Mader, interim dean for the College of Business, said if the deans had been asked or alerted to the sweeps earlier, there might not be as much outrage.

"We understand there is a budget crisis," Mader said during the meeting. Donald Van Horn, dean of the College of Fine Arts, said he thought this was an inefficient way to gather the information the administration is seeking.

"I don't buy it, frankly," Van Horn said. "If Mary Ellen Heuton or the president or whoever wanted this information, they should have come to



KOPP

us, through the provost, months ago and said 'we need a comprehensive report on how every revenue element is spent in your college.'"

Michael Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions, said during the meeting his revenue took a \$1.1 million dollar cut.

"Shocked is an understatement," Prewitt said. "I was pretty pissed."

Prewitt said he believed the sweep was an attempt to control fees paid by students.

"There is something very wrong about taking student fees and using them for these purposes," Prewitt said. "This is not the intended purpose of student fees."

Student fees differ by each college. For example, the College of Fine Arts has an art fee of \$75, and the College of Education has a student teaching fee of \$200. These fees go directly to



ORMISTON

the specific colleges to fund supplies and support labs. These funds were included in the revenue sweep.

"It is more expensive to teach a student with multiple labs required than it is to teach a student with no labs required," Sumerville said during the meeting. "Why charge every student to pay for those labs? To me, those fees make a lot of sense."

In total, nearly \$6 million was swept from revenue accounts. According to Ormiston, auxiliary accounts such as the Department of Housing and Residence Life and the Memorial Student Center were not included in the sweep.

The deans also learned they may be able to receive the funding back by filling out FY 2013 Swept Balance Release forms and justifying what the

See FALLOUT | Page 5



ANDREA STEELE | THE PARTHENON

Community pedals its way to a new PATH

By COURTNEY SEALEY
THE PARTHENON

The fourth annual Pedal for PATH took place Thursday to help raise money for the Paul Ambrose Trail for Health project in Huntington.

Exercise bikes filled the Marshall University Recreation Center Thursday for the cause. The event was run like a spin class with an instructor shouting out drills such as sprints and hill climbs.

The instructor also used inspirational phrases to help participants get through the hour long class such as, "There are two things in life you will never regret: going to church and exercising."

A new instructor came in every hour from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., and gave participants the work out of their life.

The instructors played music, which helped pump the participants' blood pressure. There was no restriction on age or skill level, which gave everyone a chance to work out while helping a cause.

Jessica Sosa and Amanda Schmitt, both third year med students at Marshall, said they came out to support a good cause.

"Its for a good cause, and we need to get to work out," Sosa said. "She's getting married soon, so we are on a workout routine and thought it would be fun."

Participants paid a \$20 registration fee, which included a free T-Shirt and door prizes. At the end of each hour, the names of the participants were drawn and prizes from Koozie to gift cards to local restaurants were given out.

The Path is a growing trail in Huntington meant to give bicyclist and pedestrians a free and healthy place to exercise. Their money comes from grants, fundraising, sponsorships and individual contributions.

PATH is named after Dr. Paul Ambrose, who dedicated his life to fighting obesity. Ambrose passed away at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

See PATH | Page 5



MARCUS CONSTANTINO | THE PARTHENON

Sophomore nursing major Jonathon Pearson enjoys Thursday's warm weather by lying in a hammock.

Research and Creativity Conference showcases student projects

By JORDAN BEAN
THE PARTHENON

The 13th Annual Research and Creativity Conference began Thursday with student presentations on topics varying from archaeology to Harry Potter.

The conference, which is hosted by the Marshall University College of Liberal Arts each year, showcases capstone and research projects conducted by students in the college.

Ferris Jackson, senior anthropology major from Buffalo, W.Va., presented her research Thursday in the John Deaver Drinko Library, giving a presentation on female impersonation in the drag queen community.

"The conference is important, especially for the liberal arts, because there's not enough recognition for a lot of things," Jackson said. "We have some really intelligent people who are questioning society and politics and all these important issues."

Rachel Kling, senior anthropology major from Mobile, Ala., presented her research on a multi-tool that would benefit all areas of archaeological work.

"This tool cuts project time in half," Kling said. "Engineers are really ecstatic about it. It's a new thing, and they modified the programming so anyone can use it. The focus of my project was to open more doors."

Kling said she believes the conference benefits the Marshall community by giving students the chance to put their school studies in to practice, then teach others about what they have learned.

"This gives us the chance to put all of our skills together and to present what we've learned over the course of our years at Marshall," Kling said. "Especially for anthropology students or



JORDAN BEAN | THE PARTHENON

Marshall University students and staff listen to a presentation during the Research and Creativity Conference, Thursday.

sociology students. We start learning all these different aspects about how people live their lives, and all the different steps to the finding the true understanding of an object you find in the ground and then taking everything that we learned and actually use it."

The conference included presentations from the English, geography, international affairs departments and a presentation by keynote speaker Shawn Schulenberg from the political science department, whose research focuses on issues of sexuality and politics in Latin America.

The conference will continue Friday in Drinko Library.

Jordan Bean can be contacted at bean19@marshall.edu.

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page designed and edited by TYLER KES
kes@marshall.edu

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GLENN'S SPORTING GOODS
FRONT PAGE STRIP



(LEFT) Members of The Hindenberg Experience trombone quartet sound off during Tuesday night's performance. (RIGHT) Graduate student Andrew O'Neal follows the notes during the Low Brass Studio recital, Tuesday, in the Smith Recital Hall.

PHOTOS BY JOSEPHINE MENDEZ | THE PARTHENON

Low Brass Studio performs in Smith Music

By JOSEPHINE E. MENDEZ
THE PARTHENON

The thunderous sound of trombones penetrated the walls of Smith Music, Thursday, as the low brass studio presented its spring recital in Smith Recital Hall.

The studio is under the direction of Michael Stroehrer, the low brass professor.

"This concert gives everyone a chance to perform," Stroehrer said. "This recital is especially beneficial to the students who have sophomore hearing coming up as well as junior and senior recitals because it gives them a chance to try out their pieces."

To start off the concert, Brian Crawford, Tim Huffman, Williams Mullins and Stephen Trumbo performed

an arranged piece by G. A. Smeltekop titled "Two Elizabethan Dances," which was followed by a selection by Alfred Reed titled "Two Bagatelles"

"The first piece we have been working on for a while now, but the second one was a new one for us," Crawford said. "We have only been working on it for about two weeks and it was definitely the weaker of two pieces."

Crawford said the pressure of having little time to prepare tests them as musicians and gives them a feel for what they may experience as professional musicians.

"In the professional world, a performer might only get a piece a day or two in advance," Stroehrer said. "Making them perform under

pressure without a whole lot of preparation challenges them as musicians."

The trombone choir, which consisted of 12 trombonists, performed the last piece of the concert. The students began rehearsals for the piece on Tuesday and had it concert ready within a few short rehearsals.

Ethan Bartlett, a sophomore music education major and one of the members of the trombone choir, said he was surprised by how well they performed the piece.

"It's not a very difficult piece, but there are a lot of places where you can easily slip up," Bartlett said. "This piece is also really great at showing off the instrument because it's generally not that popular."

Bartlett said he hopes the concert influences others to think of the trombone as more than just a background instrument, but one that can be played with great musicality.

"I really enjoyed the concert," Scott Nibert, a junior music education major, said. "The last piece was especially good because it had different combinations of things you might hear in other types of music that are not written for trombone."

It has been several semesters since the low brass section has performed a studio recital, but Stroehrer hopes it will become a more frequent occurrence.

Josephine Mendez can be contacted at mendez9@marshall.edu.

POLICE BLOTTER

By JOSIE LANDGRAVE
THE PARTHENON

The following summaries were compiled from this week's Marshall University police reports.

PETIT LARCENY: RECREATION CENTER

April 3 at 9:42 p.m., a victim reported the theft of their wallet with several identification cards and a \$600 white iPhone. On April 8, officers identified three suspects after reviewing camera footage. The following day, search and arrest warrants were issued. Two females and one male were taken into custody on charges ranging from forgery to fraudulent use of an access device.

BATTERY: MARSHALL UNIVERSTIY MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER PLAZA

April 5 at 2:26 a.m., victim said he was walking home from a bar and came into contact with three white males. The victim said they followed him and made racial slurs toward him. The suspects pushed the victim to the ground several times. The victim denied emergency personnel treatment. The charges against the three suspects may be upgraded pending further investigation.

UNDERAGE DRINKING: 1600 BLOCK OF FIFTH AVENUE

April 7 at 3:58 a.m., officers approached an intoxicated male lying on a bench outside the College of Fine Arts building. Officers said the suspect had red eyes, slurred speech and an odor of alcohol on his breath. Officers said the suspect would not get rid of his attitude and obey their orders. The 19-year-old male was arrested and transported to the West Virginia Regional Jail.

BREAKING AND ENTERING: MARSHALL UNIVERSITY SOFTBALL FIELD PARKING LOT

April 8 at 1:24 p.m., a female victim said her rear window was broken in vehicle. A little over \$1 in change was stolen from the center console. There are no suspects or witnesses.

PETIT LARCENY: SHEWEY BUILDING

April 9 at 5:58 p.m., a victim reported their bike stolen outside of the Shewey building. There are no suspects or witnesses.

Josie Landgrave can be contacted at landgrave2@marshall.edu.

Ladybeard headlines Appalachian Film Festival



By CHRIS HODGE
THE PARTHENON

"Ladybeard," an independent romantic-comedy about a Huntington comedian's desperate attempt to keep his best friend and make believe girlfriend in the closet, will headline the first night of the 10th Annual Appalachian Film Festival on Friday at 9 p.m. in the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center in downtown Huntington.

"Ladybeard" tells the story of Andy, an aspiring stand-up comedian who sets his dreams of comedic stardom aside to stick around his college town and pretend to date his best friend Michelle so she will not have to come out to her conservative parents. When Michelle's girlfriend Hayden proposes, Michelle decides it is time to finally come out of the closet.

Andy knows he should be happy for Michelle, but begins to fear that the end of their

make-believe relationship could also mean the end of their friendship. Egged on by a traveling performance artist comedienne named Amy, Andy sets out on a desperate quest to preserve his and Michelle's elaborate charade and to save his role as Michelle's "ladybeard."

"Ladybeard" stars Toby Poole as the stand-up comedian Andy. Penny Maple stars as his best friend and girlfriend Michelle. Rachel Henderson plays traveling

performance artist and comedienne Amy, and Molly Tilly stars as Michelle's girlfriend Hayden.

David Smith, the film's writer and director, is a Marshall University alumnus who graduated with a political science degree in 2009.

"I could have been someone's beard once," Smith said. "It didn't happen, but the idea of doing it sounded like it would make a good movie."

"Ladybeard" premiered in March as part of the 2013

Mountaineer Short Film and Video Festival in Morgantown, W.Va., and Smith said he was excited to show his latest film in his hometown of Huntington.

"Being accepted as one of only two feature films at this year's Appalachian Film Festival is a great honor," Smith said. "I am very excited to screen 'Ladybeard' in Huntington since most of the movie was shot either in town or in Charleston. It's a little difficult to put into words how excited I am to

get to show this independent movie in a big beautiful venue like the Keith Albee."

"Ladybeard" was shot completely in West Virginia with a local cast and crew. Huntington community members and Marshall students alike will recognize many of the locations featured in the film, including local landmarks like The V Club, the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Shamrocks and Marshall University.

See LADYBEARD | Page 5

Marshall students explain, react to honeybee decline

By SHANNON GRENER
THE PARTHENON

The honeybee population has been suffering a massive decline in recent years, and without honeybees an environmental imbalance could arise.

Sophomore biology student Matt Machtinger said honeybees play a vital role in the earth's scenery.

"They pollinate all the flowers and everything nice," Machtinger said. "If there were no more honeybees in America and the environment and that would just be gone and the world would turn black and there would be no life."

Honeybees are a herbivore species that eat nectar from flowers and help transport pollen from flowers. They are usually black with a tint of red and brown with

yellow and orange colored rings around the abdomen.

Nectar is the liquid within a flower, and pollen is a powder related substance that is transferred by honeybees from one flower to another to help influence the growth of more flowers.

Honeybees create and produce beeswax and honey inside their nests, which are known as beehives. A single beehive could potentially have 70,000 bees or more residing inside.

A beehive consists of three different types of bees to function correctly. There is the one queen bee producing all the eggs or baby bees known as larvae. Then there are the worker bees that are responsible for creating the honeycombs and honey inside the hive.

Honeycomb is the hexagonal

shaped walls that house the eggs laid by the queen bee until they hatch. The larvae or baby bees feed on honey.

A recent population decline of honeybees in previous years has been linked to Colony Collapse Disorder. CCD is when worker bees disappear and die off before returning to their hive.

An arising cause of CCD appears to be chemical pesticides used on plants producing fruit, nuts and mostly farm goods.

The pesticide specifically suggested to be affecting the honeybees is known as neonicotinoids, a nicotine based pesticide.

It is believed once a worker bee consumes too much of the chemical pesticides during pollination the honeybee can forget and lose all recollection of its duty and location

of its hive, and will disappear and die off.

Senior public relations student Tyrell Carlton said he would be distraught without honeybees around.

"I think it would bother me if the honeybees are gone," Carlton said. "Back when I was a little kid, I would enjoy seeing the honeybees out going around — granted once in a while one might sting you — but in a way they are kind of helpful with how nature is progressing."

To help reduce the numbers of honeybees suffering from chemical pesticides, organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency have begun to focus on the effects of pesticides on pollinating species.

Shannon Grener can be contacted at grener@marshall.edu.

SPORTS

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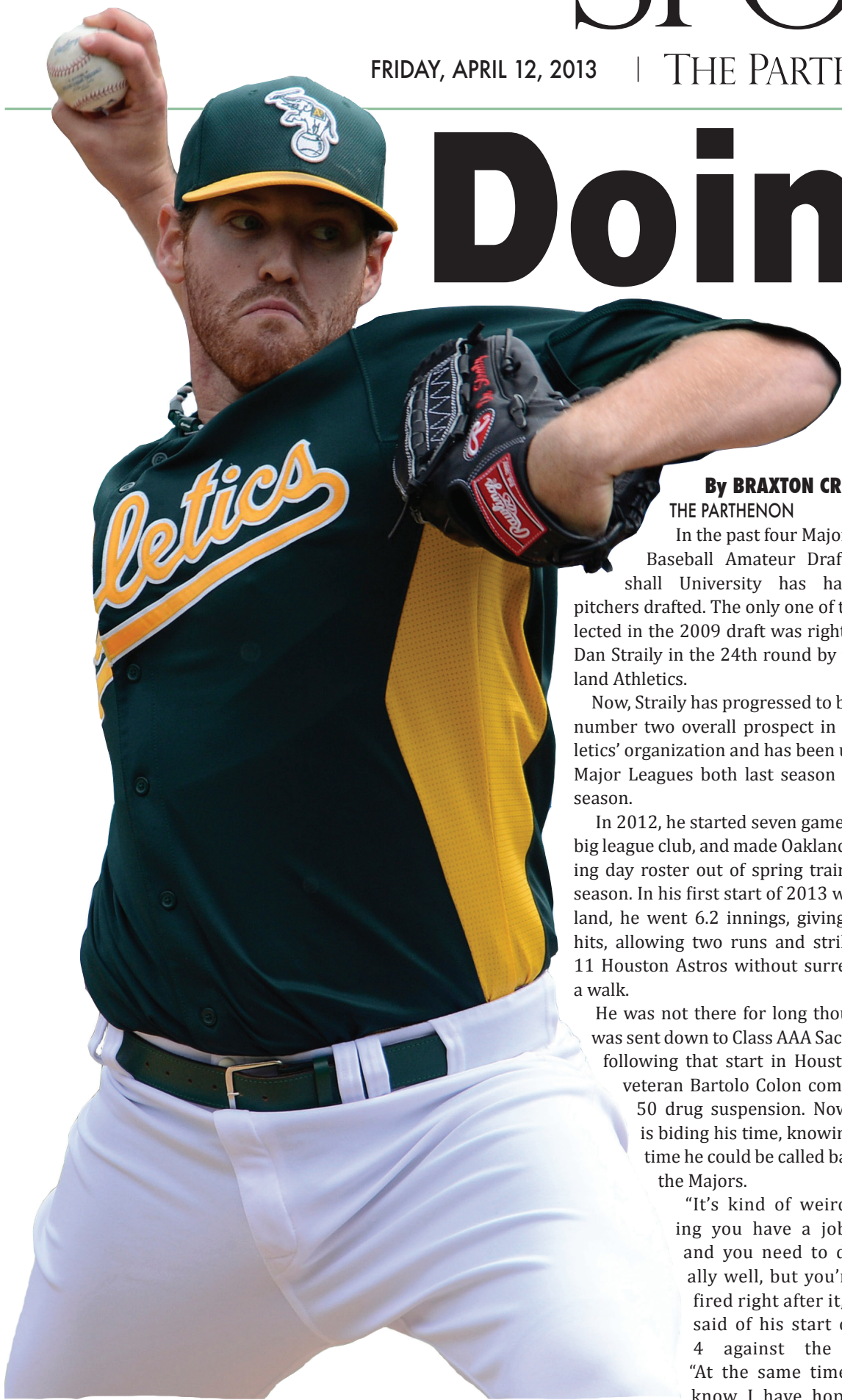


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT
Former Herd pitcher Dan Straily winds up for the Oakland Athletic's in a preseason matchup against the San Francisco Giants March 30, 2013.

Doing it big

Former Herd pitcher Dan Straily finding success in the big leagues

By **BRAXTON CRISP**
THE PARTHENON

In the past four Major League Baseball Amateur Drafts, Marshall University has had eight pitchers drafted. The only one of those selected in the 2009 draft was right-hander Dan Straily in the 24th round by the Oakland Athletics.

Now, Straily has progressed to being the number two overall prospect in the Athletics' organization and has been up to the Major Leagues both last season and this season.

In 2012, he started seven games for the big league club, and made Oakland's opening day roster out of spring training this season. In his first start of 2013 with Oakland, he went 6.2 innings, giving up five hits, allowing two runs and striking out 11 Houston Astros without surrendering a walk.

He was not there for long though, and was sent down to Class AAA Sacramento following that start in Houston, with veteran Bartolo Colon coming off a 50 drug suspension. Now Straily is biding his time, knowing at any time he could be called back up to the Majors.

"It's kind of weird knowing you have a job to do, and you need to do it really well, but you're being fired right after it," Straily said of his start on April 4 against the Astros. "At the same time, I also know I have hopefully a long career ahead of me and not just one day. So, I need to stay prepared, do my job and keep pitching. It was kind

of tough mentally at first, but then one game time came, and I strapped on the spikes and went out there — it didn't really matter anymore. I was out there to pitch and do my job and deal with everything else after."

Straily was not the only local player the Athletics recently drafted. Former Wayne High School standout Jon Adkins was selected by the Athletics in 1998. He made it to Sacramento as well, before being traded to the Chicago White Sox in 2002. Now a scout with the Boston Red Sox, Adkins feels the Athletics have one of the best pitching development systems in the Minor Leagues.

"Historically, they've done a very good job with developing starting pitchers," Adkins said. "I think they're very patient with guys, and they have very good people working in player development, especially on the pitching side."

The connections do not stop there. Adkins' brother, Tim, was the Marshall pitching coach while Straily was with the Thundering Herd in 2008 and 2009. Straily attributes some of his success to learning how to throw strikes in college.

"The biggest thing that was preached in college baseball, and is one of the hardest things to do, is just throw strikes," Straily said. "That's something that gets overlooked a lot when you're younger. You want to have a nasty breaking ball, you want to throw really hard, but you just have to throw strikes."

While Straily had success in college, he admits that his mechanics were not the best in the world, but that the pitching coaches with Oakland have worked on that tremendously.



"I was always hurky-jerky with a high leg kick and a lot of things going on," Straily said of his delivery. "But now, I'm just a simple mechanics guy. One day at the end of my first half season, my pitching coach brought me in and showed me film of the first day of the season and of the last day of the season, and I was completely different."

Straily said he feels that despite being in the position he is in — being the first guy who will get called up should one of the pitchers with the big league club get injured — learning how to pitch is always a continual effort.

"Pitching doesn't stop," Straily said. "You're always learning. Look at guys like Andy Pettite, who has been out there doing it forever and he is still changing because your body changes, your strength changes, your age changes — everything changes. And you have to learn what works for you on a particular day every time out."

Thursday, Straily made his first start for Sacramento, against Tacoma, since being sent down from Oakland a week ago.

Braxton Crisp can be reached at crisp23@marshall.edu.

Tennis tries to finish season strong

By **MALCOLM IRVING**
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University women tennis team's regular season is coming to an end this weekend. The tennis team is looking to finish its season above .500, compiling an 11-10 record as of today.

Wednesday, the Thundering Herd played its last home game against the University of Louisville. The Herd finished on top, defeating the Cardinals 4-3 in the Wednesday match, which was also the Herd's senior day. It was the last home game for seniors Kara Kucin, Dominika Zaprazna and Maria Voscekova.

Friday's match against the University of Cincinnati will be the Herd's last match of the season before the Conference USA tournament.

The Cincinnati Bearcats are coming into Friday's match with a six consecutive game victories. The Bearcats defeated the University of Pittsburgh last Sunday, 6-1. Cincinnati boasts a 10-7 overall record, and has three remaining regular season games.

Kucin said the Herd is looking to snap that six game win streak and go into the conference

tournament with a win and more confidence.

"A win against Cincinnati will definitely boost our confidence going into the tournament. It will also raise our chances of being seeded in the post season, which will of course be a positive thing. I think any athlete really wants to win that last match and end the regular season on a positive note," Kucin said.

The Herd did not have much time to prepare for the match due to having a match on Wednesday, while the Bearcats have had five days to rest and prepare for the match.

"After the Louisville match, we all made sure to get a good night of sleep and rest our bodies as much as we could. We had practice in Huntington Thursday morning before heading to Cincinnati. It was not a very strenuous practice, but we worked on the little details to improve our game for the match against the Bearcats," Kucin said.

Marshall will play Cincinnati at 3 p.m. before departing for next week's C-USA Championship games in Houston.

Malcolm Irving can be contacted at Irving2@marshall.edu.

Marshall men's golf reflects on season

By **KYLE GIBSON**
THE PARTHENON

The Marshall University men's golf team wrapped up its regular season with a 12th place team finish at the Irish Creek Collegiate tournament in Kannapolis, N.C.

The 12th place finish came after a first day round which saw the team in seventh place. Sophomore Brian Anania said he and the team performed better all around on the tournament's first day.

"The first day, I thought we had a much better day as a team," Anania said. "I think I played better on the first day as well. On the final round, we didn't play as well as we needed to and lost a few spots."

The spring and fall seasons were different for the team this season in one aspect — the person leading the team. At the end of the 2012 spring season, Head Coach Joe Feaganes retired after

being with the team for more than 40 years.

Matt Grobe, Feagane's replacement, was hired on June 29. Junior golfer Jeremy Rogers said he enjoys playing for Grobe.

"Coach Grobe is an awesome coach," Rogers said. "He used to be a PGA professional, so he knows a little about the game, and if we are having problems with our game we can go to him for advice. He's a laid back guy like everyone else on the team."

Nathan Kerns, Marshall's lone senior, said he was not sure about what to expect when the coaching switch happened, but he enjoys Grobe's coaching style.

"I think coming into this season as a senior, I didn't know what to expect," Kerns said. "We are privileged to have had two coaches that had different styles, but worked."

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THE VILLAGE ON SIXTH
PARTHENON
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OPINION

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THE PARTHENON

ABOUT US

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Mondays through Fridays during the regular semesters, and weekly Thursdays during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

STAFF

JOHN GIBB
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
gibb@marshall.edu

RACHEL FORD
MANAGING EDITOR
ford80@marshall.edu

ASHLEIGH HILL
LIFE! EDITOR
hill281@marshall.edu

MARCUS CONSTANTINO
PHOTO EDITOR
constantino2@marshall.edu

SAMUEL SPECIALE
COPY EDITOR
speciale@marshall.edu

TYLER KES
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
kes@marshall.edu

BISHOP NASH
NEWS EDITOR
nash24@marshall.edu

WILL VANCE
SPORTS EDITOR
vance162@marshall.edu

DWIGHT JORGE
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR
jorge@marshall.edu

CAITIE SMITH
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR
smith1650@marshall.edu

SANDY YORK
FACULTY ADVISER
sandy.york@marshall.edu

CONTACT US

109 Communications Bldg.
Marshall University
One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25755
parthenon@marshall.edu

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Column

MU students deserve a transparent administration

By HENRY CULVYHOUSE
COLUMNIST

The beauty of American democracy is tax funded, public institutions are open to public inspection and their actions are easily documentable, but at Marshall University this week, we have learned that is not always the case.

The budget sweep, reducing each Marshall college's accounts to \$5,000, leaving in the hands of the university proper, rocked faculty, students and staff like a midsummer thunderstorm. Everyone was already used to tightening their belts, but now they have to go out and buy a smaller one.

No one saw this coming. Talking with faculty today, I found out that the accounts were already swept Tuesday at 9:11 a.m., and all employees received an email informing them about it. I found out professors in College of Liberal Arts want to protest the sweep at noon April 19, but the only room available to air their grievances is in the Catholic Newman Center, which is conveniently located across the street, away from anyone who might hear.

Talking to the nice secretary in the COLA office today, I found out Dean Pittenger would give no comment on the issue, having denied another reporter an interview on the same matter.

Kopp is refusing to comment as well.

The best way to anger a whole university is to make a drastic move with its finances and then refuse to address it.

If there is nothing to hide, then why act like there is?

If this is such a wise move necessary for Marshall University's financial survival, then why was this not done out in the open?

Why was there no warning? No notice?

If this is the best thing for the university, then why was it not

exposed to the arena of public opinion?

If a policy is sound, then it will naturally prevail when exposed to other options. But I guess Kopp and company thought otherwise.

I understand the president's office needs to make executive actions to steer the boat away from a rock at a moment's notice. A decision like this, however, requires much planning and preparation, and should include debate outside the presidential office. This affects every student, faculty, staff and member of the Huntington community.

It affects the Thundering Herd, and the Herd should have seen it coming.

But I guess the top administration thought otherwise.

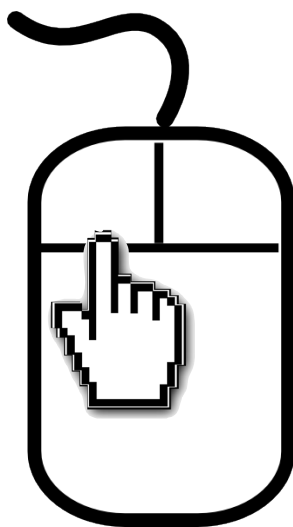
I am not saying we should fight these sweeps or support them — I do not know. But what we need to do is pry open this culture of secrecy the administration embraces. Ever try to find the budget in this institution? Not the summary, I mean the actual budget. Good luck jumping through those hoops. For a place where people learn information and engage in debates, there is a lot of administrative red tape for public documents and a lack of communication from the top.

This is a major move, done behind our backs and announced before we at Marshall could have a say in the matter — we at Marshall, who love this school and do our best to get by, even with the rising tuition and the low pay.

Thankfully, the college deans were told they could justify funds needed and have them returned, but what has me worried is the other decisions the administration has never bothered informing us about.

Henry Culvyhouse can be contacted at culvyhouse@marshall.edu.

ONLINE POLLS



What are your feelings on North Korea?

- I'm worried
- We have nothing to worry about
- What's going on in North Korea?

Which NCAA team do you think will win the national championship?

- Michigan 19%
- Wichita State 13%
- Louisville 62%
- Syracuse 6%

Visit marshallparthenon.com to share your opinion.

Editorial: Sen. Manchin out of character in gun debate

Wednesday, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) introduced a bi-partisan gun control bill alongside Sen. Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) in a move that will likely raise the eyebrows of National Rifle Association members in West Virginia.

Manchin, a life long member of the NRA who has distanced himself from President Barack Obama's left-leaning gun control policies, has shifted his stance and has taken a middle-ground approach in the months after the Sandy Hook massacre.

"It [Sandy Hook] has changed me," Manchin said in a MSNBC interview in December. "We can protect Second Amendment rights, and we will protect it, but we can also look at ways that we can make our country and children more safe."

Manchin is not the only one to re-evaluate gun control in the wake of Sandy Hook, which fired up an already heated debate on Capitol Hill. Four months after the massacre, it seems as if Washington is as divided as ever.

Bridging the divide on Capitol Hill is no small task, but Manchin's deal may be enough to push expanded gun control laws

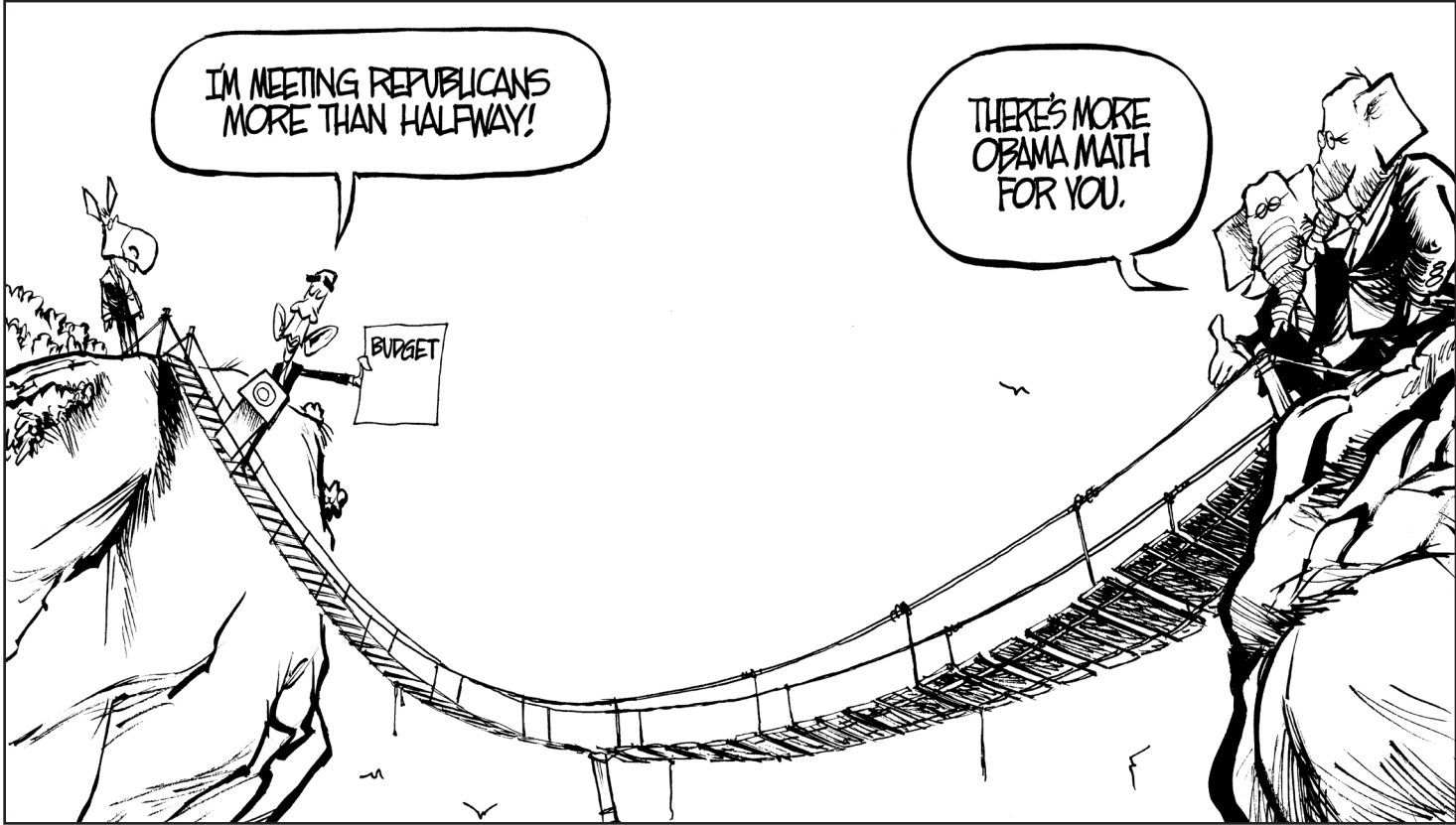
over the bloated hill.

Fresh off of a re-election, Manchin's senate seat is secure until 2018, which is probably a good thing considering West Virginia has a subversive "gun-culture" where it is all about God, guns and guts.

Manchin is a smart politician — his rise to power from the West Virginia House of Delegates to the United States Senate shows that — but his waffling on gun control is out of character considering his staunch pro-gun stance. In 2010, Manchin ran an ad where he claimed he would take "dead aim" and shoot down Obama's Cap and Trade Bill. The ad depicted Manchin firing a rifle round into a copy of the bill. That does not sound like someone who would be at the forefront of gun control legislation.

Has Sandy Hook really changed Manchin, or is this a strategic political maneuver to gain national attention?

While Manchin's bill is a watered down compromise compared to the harsh assault weapons ban Obama wanted, it is a step in the right direction to legally expand background checks for gun buyers at gun shows and Internet sales.



MCT CAMPUS

Column: Can Obama Sell 'Chained CPI'?

By DOYLE MCMANUS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

President Obama didn't release his proposed budget for 2014 until Wednesday, but liberals and AARP have been howling all week about something they expected to be in it.

What has our president done to provoke such outrage among his supporters?

He's chained CPI.

In an attempt to meet Republicans halfway in the battle over taxes and spending, Obama has offered to change the formula for calculating Social Security's annual cost-of-living increase — an "entitlement reform" GOP leaders have long asked for.

The result would not change current Social Security benefits, but it would reduce future raises by an estimated three-tenths of 1 percent in the first year, or about \$42 for the average beneficiary. Over the long run, thanks to the magic of compounding, a lower rate of increase would have a substantial effect. After 20 years, estimating very roughly, a retiree might be looking at a yearly payout more than \$1,000 less than he or she would have received without the change.

To progressives like Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., that's an unconscionable cut. But others, including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., are willing to back Obama on this one. "Let's take a look at it," Pelosi said recently.

If you've read this far, you're ready for the technical explanation, which requires some background.

When Congress enacted Social Security in 1935, there was no provision for increases. Until 1950, benefits didn't rise at all, but since 1975, annual cost-of-living adjustments have been automatic, based on the consumer price index.

The problem is there's more than one way of calculating the consumer price index. Right

now, Social Security increases are based on the Bureau of Labor Standards' CPI-W, for urban workers. But the agency also calculates the index in other ways, including one known as C-CPI-U, or "chained CPI."

The old-fashioned CPI is based on a fixed "market basket" of commodities. When their prices rise, the index rises proportionally. Chained CPI adds in something called the "substitution effect": When prices go up, people change what they put in the basket. When the cost of beef increases, for example, consumers switch from steak to chicken, which means their cost of living doesn't rise as fast as the old-fashioned CPI would suggest.

As a result of the calculation differences, chained CPI rises a little more slowly than regular CPI — by about one-quarter of a percentage point less per year over the last 10 years, according to Robert Greenstein at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Many economists say chained CPI is a more accurate way to measure the cost of living for retirees and therefore it should be the basis for Social Security adjustments.

Greenstein, the patriarch of liberal budget experts, doesn't agree. In fact, in a paper he issued on Tuesday, he argued that chained CPI is probably less accurate as a measure of inflation's impact on the elderly and the poor. Older people spend more on health care than on chained CPI measures, he noted. And poor people — who gave up steak long ago — can't substitute cheaper goods as easily as the middle class.

And yet Greenstein, like Pelosi, has decided that Obama's proposal for chained CPI is worth a try. The reason, he said, is that if you're looking for entitlement cuts as part of a grand bargain on the budget, it's better than the alternatives.

The question now: Will Republicans buy in?

Last year, when the issue first came up, GOP leaders in Congress said chained CPI was an important test of whether Obama was serious about making cuts in Medicare and Social Security and suggested that such a move might make them more willing to compromise on revenue increases.

But last week, when White House officials leaked the news that chained CPI would be in the new budget, Republicans seemed unimpressed.

House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, dismissed the proposal as insignificant — and certainly not enough to deserve a GOP concession on taxes in return.

Obama is hoping the plan will get a better reception from the GOP senators he's been having dinner with over the last two months. They, not Boehner, are the Republicans he hopes to make his partners in a grand bargain.

Even if GOP leaders buy in, the public will take some convincing. A Pew Research Center poll last month found that 55 percent of Americans think preserving Social Security and Medicare benefits is more important than cutting the deficit, including 73 percent of Democrats. (A slim majority of Republicans, 52 percent, believe cutting the deficit is more important.)

If the public doesn't want the change, and some people in his own party are also opposed, why is Obama moving forward? For one thing, he isn't running for office again. Proposing a change in the formula for Social Security increases is the kind of thing a second-term president can do.

More important, the proposal is evidence that Obama, despite his failures in 2011 and 2012, still yearns for a grand bargain on the budget. And now that he isn't running for reelection, he's willing to take risks, endure complaints from his own party and buck public opinion to try to get it.

Facebook CEO launches political advocacy group, targets immigration

By **BRANDON BAILEY**
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and other tech leaders took the wraps off a new political advocacy group on Thursday, while vowing to plunge immediately into the national debate over immigration policy.

The new group, backed by a who's who of prominent and wealthy Internet industry figures, says it will lobby Congress and the White House, while using cutting-edge social-media tools to mobilize public support for immigration reform, better schools and more funding for scientific research.

Calling itself FWD.us, or "Forward U.S.," the well-heeled group hinted it may also back individual politicians but did not spell out whether it plans to be involved in election campaigns.

"We will use online and offline advocacy tools to build support for policy changes, and we will strongly support those willing to take the tough stands necessary to promote these policies in Washington," Zuckerberg wrote in an essay for the Washington Post.

Along with Zuckerberg, the group's initial supporters are mostly figures with ties to Internet and social media companies, rather than more traditional makers of computer hardware and software. The list includes Netflix CEO Reed Hastings, LinkedIn founder Reid Hoffman, Yelp Chairman Max Levchin, Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer, Zynga CEO Marc Pincus and Google Chairman Eric Schmidt, along with influential venture capitalists Ron Conway, Jim Breyer and John Doerr.

Immigration is at the top of their priority list, according to people familiar with the organizers' thinking, because legislative reforms are now being considered in Congress and they hope to influence that debate.

Current rules force too many foreign students to leave the United States after earning math and science degrees here, and don't provide enough visas for immigrants who are skilled tech workers and entrepreneurs, Zuckerberg says in the Post essay.

In the essay, which is also posted on the group's new website (www.fwd.us), he argues that current policies don't meet the needs of today's "knowledge economy," in which "the most important resources are the talented people we educate and attract to our country."

"We need a new approach" to immigration and education, Zuckerberg writes, adding that he favors "comprehensive" reform that also includes "effective border security" and "a path to citizenship."

Describing his own great-grandparents as immigrants, Zuckerberg opened the essay with an anecdote from an after-school class on entrepreneurship that he teaches for middle-school students at the Bellehaven Community School in Menlo Park, Calif., near Facebook's headquarters.

"One of my top aspiring entrepreneurs told me he wasn't sure that he'd be able to go to college because he's undocumented," Zuckerberg wrote. "These students are smart and hardworking, and they should be part of our future."

Similar arguments have been raised by several tech industry trade associations in

recent weeks. Zuckerberg and other organizers have not said why they feel the industry needs another advocacy group. But they may be hoping to focus more intensely on a narrow list of issues.

Fwd.us won't be working on patent reform, data privacy regulations or other issues of industry concern, according to sources familiar with the organizers' thinking. The group is incorporated under section 501(c)4 of the tax code, which means it will be able to lobby policymakers and may be able to engage in campaign activity, although it can't coordinate with individual candidates.

"We will use online social organizing, which many of our founders pioneered, to build a movement in the tech community, while engaging in direct advocacy at the state and district level to support members of Congress, regardless of party," Zuckerberg wrote.

A spokeswoman declined to comment on a Wall Street Journal report that organizers had planned to launch the group with a budget of \$50 million.

In keeping with its avowed bipartisanship, the group has hired political professionals from both sides of the aisle. Rob Jesmer, a prominent Republican strategist, will run the group's Washington office, while two other staff jobs will be filled by veteran Democrats.

The group's president will be Joe Green, a former Zuckerberg college roommate who previously launched two startups, Causes and NationBuilder, which provided technology for social action and community organizing. Green and Jesmer were unavailable for interviews Thursday.

Ladybeard Continued from Page 2

"Ladybeard" is the second feature film released by Apartment 2B Productions, a Huntington-based film collective headed by the husband and wife team of David Smith and Molly Tilly. Smith met Tilly at the premiere of his first film "Maneater," a romantic comedy about a college student falling for a cannibal, which Smith wrote and directed during his freshman year at Marshall.

Smith and Tilly became fast friends and quickly developed a romantic relationship, getting married in August 2009. Both were the heads of their own movie production companies and soon realized that it was weird living in the same house and having two separate movie production companies under the same roof.

So in 2009, the newly married couple decided to merge the two companies and form Apartment 2B Productions.

"At first I was a little defensive about putting aside my own thing and joining forces," Tilly said. "But it made the most sense. We named our company Apartment 2B Productions after the first apartment we shared together."

The festival circuit is not new for Smith or the Apartment 2B

Productions team, who took their first feature "Escribitionist" on a successful tour up and down the east coast in 2010 and have screened movies in festivals across the region, including the D.C. Spooky Movie Film Festival in Washington, D.C. and the West Virginia International Film Festival in Charleston.

"'Escribitionist' was new territory for us in a lot of ways," Tilly said. "I had read a book called '\$30 Film School' that had a chapter on how to book a DIY movie tour and thought that might be the best way to get 'Escribitionist' out there."

Apartment 2B Productions plans to release "Ladybeard" on DVD and for download on services like iTunes in the fall after taking it around the film festival circuit this summer.

"While I do hope my movies stand the test of time," Smith said. "I hope that we get to a point soon when the plot of 'Ladybeard' seriously dates it. It would be great if society was accepting enough where people didn't need 'beards.'"

Admission for the Friday evening screening of Ladybeard is a \$5 suggested donation with proceeds to benefit The Keith Albee Theater Organ Project.

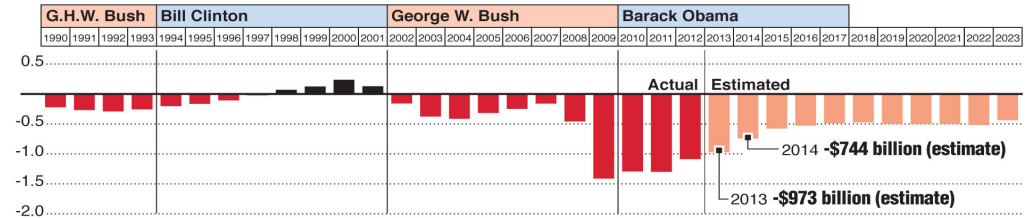
Chris Hodge can be contacted at hodge41@marshall.edu

Proposal would raise spending, lower deficit

The White House says President Barack Obama's budget, released Wednesday, focuses on creating jobs and strengthening the middle class. The proposals would trim the yearly deficit to about \$500 billion by the end of the decade.

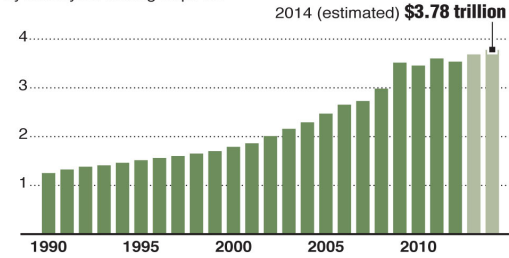
Federal budget deficit/surplus, by fiscal year ending Sept. 30, in trillions of dollars

Budget by president

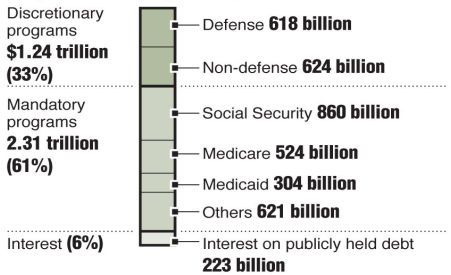


Federal spending

By fiscal year ending Sept. 30



Proposed 2014 spending breakdown



Some numbers from the budget proposal

\$580 billion

Revenue from changing taxes for households earning more than \$1 million and other top earners

94 cents

Increase in the federal tax on cigarettes, from \$1.01 to \$1.95 per pack, to pay for early childhood education and development programs

\$230 million

Savings from changing the cost-of-living adjustments throughout the budget

\$50 billion

Spending on infrastructure improvements

\$9 per hour

Amount to which the minimum wage would be raised

\$1 billion

Race to the Top Fund for higher education reform

Source: White House Office of Management and Budget
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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PATH

Continued from Page 1

Bethany Williams, program coordinator at Rahall Transportation Institute, said there are current PATH projects in the works.

"Our current projects include one near the flood wall from West Third Street moving towards Camden Park," Williams said. "And also one in Guyan-dotte. These projects should be completed by the end of spring."

She also said PATH's next step will be to create connector paths so all of the small paths will turn into one.

Event coordinator, Aaron Dom, said the event was successful. Among the registration fee donations, they also received donations from others, one totaling \$1,000.

Courtney Sealey can be contacted at sealey3@marshall.edu.

Golf

Continued from Page 3

With the regular season complete, the team will now shift its focus toward the Conference USA tournament in Texarkana, Ark. The location has been the same for the past two seasons, which Anania said gives players an advantage.

"Every time you play a course, you always learn about it and shots you can and can't miss," Anania said. "I think that gives you

a huge advantage. It will be my third time down there. I believe we have good experience and can hopefully play well there."

Golf is a sport that cannot be mastered. Even the best pros can falter in the final round of a big tournament. Despite the added pressures of being a senior, Kerns said he does not change anything in his routine for the conference tournament.

"Of course there's added pressure there, with it being my last one," Kerns said. "It's been a great ride with these guys. We are

just going to go down there and try to finish strong, and most importantly try to get an automatic regional bid, which you get for winning your conference tournament."

The first round of the three-day C-USA tournament starts April 21.

Kyle Gibson can be contacted at gibson210@marshall.edu.



Fallout

Continued from Page 1

funds are used for or are going to be used for.

The sweep and the hiring freeze are a result of expected budget cuts from the state. According to Virginia Painter, university spokesperson, state appropriations made up 28 percent of the university's total budget last year. The university expects appropriations to be cut by 8.94 percent, resulting in a loss of \$5.11 million to the main campus.

"After careful consideration of the circumstances looming before us, we have decided to take action now to avoid more drastic actions in the future," Kopp said in his letter to university faculty and staff. "While these decisions are tough to make, they represent the prudent and most appropriate course of action."

Painter said the measures would not affect the daily operations at Marshall other than requiring a couple extra steps from faculty and staff.

"We understand these new measures will be an inconvenience for faculty and staff who may have to fill out an additional form to justify a purchase or fill a position, but the administration truly feels this is

the best possible course of action," Painter said. "This proactive approach should put us in a much better position to face those appropriation cuts we have been told to expect."

Marty Amerikaner, psychology professor and faculty representative for the Board of Governors, said faculty was shocked by the sudden sweep of revenue funds.

"It is particularly disturbing when those funds are specifically allocated," Amerikaner said. "In other words, a fee is coming from students for particular reasons like lab fees or program fees that are part of policies that are, in some cases, approved by the Board of Governors for particular purposes. If you as a student take a lab class and pay a lab fee, that money is supposed to be there for the purposes of supporting those labs."

Amerikaner said the Board of Governors was alerted to the measures only minutes before faculty and staff. The Board was also not apart of the decision making process.

Alan Gravano, English professor and director of the bachelor of health sciences, said the hiring freeze angered him the most because he is a term professor and that leaves his position in the university very unstable.

"Each year I have to reapply for any opening the department is going to have," Gravano said. "So, the one thing that I am most fearful, just looking at this as a term professor, is how many positions are going to be available because of the freeze and the budget cuts."

Gravano said he fears the university will choose to hire more adjunct professors, which receive a smaller salary and do not receive benefits, rather than hiring term professors.

Painter said each request to fill a vacancy would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

"It's important to understand that the most important consideration in every decision will be the delivery of services to students," Painter said. "The procedure for requesting an exception to the freeze clearly indicates that there are several instances in which an exception will be considered — for instance, for positions critical to courses necessary for students' timely academic progression and graduation and for positions critical to the advancement of the university's academic mission."

Kopp was not available for further comment.

Taylor Stuck can be contacted at stuck7@marshall.edu.

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